

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1 to emphasize novel and nonobvious features of the claimed grease compositions for constant velocity joints, including the features of claim 3. Applicant also has amended claim 3 to remove now-redundant features. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-3 over U.S. Published Application No. 2006/0073989 to Fujita et al. ("Fujita").

Amended claim 1 recites, among other things, a grease composition for constant velocity joints comprising a complex of a fatty acid salt and a carbonate, wherein said fatty acid is overbased by said carbonate.

As noted at page 2, paragraph 3 of Office Action, Fujita discloses a grease composition comprising a base oil, a thickener, carbon black, extreme pressure additives, organomolybdenum compounds, and organic salts. Fujita, however, neither discloses nor suggests using a complex of a fatty acid salt and a carbonate, wherein said fatty acid is overbased by said carbonate. Since Fujita fails to disclose all of the features of amended claim 1, Fujita does not anticipate amended claim 1, and its dependent claims 2 and 3.

Applicant also respectfully traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-3 over U.S. Patent No. 6,432,889 to Kinoshita et al. ("Kinoshita") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0076125 to Iso et al. ("Iso").

Kinoshita neither discloses nor suggests the above-mentioned features of amended claim 1. The Office Action noted at page 3, paragraph 8 that Kinoshita discloses at col. 5, lines 34-44 using carbonated metal sulfonates. Kinoshita, more specifically, discloses at col. 5, lines 34-44, examples of carbonated metal sulfonates

including an over-based oil-soluble zinc sulfonate containing calcium carbonate, an over-based oil-soluble magnesium sulfonate containing magnesium carbonate, and mixtures thereof, but does not disclose or suggest using a complex of a fatty acid salt and a carbonate.

Iso also neither discloses nor suggests using a complex of a fatty acid salt and a carbonate.

Since none of the cited references, alone or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest all of the above features of amended claim 1, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-3 are not obvious over the cited references. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.

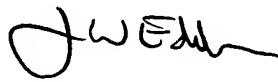
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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